

CITY PLANNING UPDATE

LA FIESTA SQUARE REDESIGN

(see drawing below)

Groundbreaking for reconfigured parking, enhanced landscaping, and building and facade renovation of this retail center located at the Southwest corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd. is scheduled for Spring, 1998.

BART BLOCK/ TOWN CENTER DEVELOPMENT

Groundbreaking for retail space along Mt. Diablo Blvd. is currently scheduled for 1998.

OAKWOOD ATHLETIC CLUB

Street improvements and site preparation at Mt. Diablo Blvd. west of the Reservoir will occur through Summer, 1998.

DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC STUDY, COMPREHENSIVE WALKWAYS PLAN, AND GENERAL PLAN REVISIONS

Call staff members Ashley Nguyen or Mike Henn at 284-1968 for updates and hearing dates.

SCOTCH SUPER WASH

An application for a use permit for a self-service car wash at Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Second St was denied.

GROWING TREE PRESCHOOL

An application for a use permit for a preschool at 996 Sunnybrook Dr was denied.

"SMALLTOWN DOWNTOWN"

More than 100 business owners and interested citizens attended a **SmallTown Downtown** Workshop at the City Council's August 11th meeting. They shared ideas and reactions to a 24-item action plan designed to enhance downtown Lafayette.

The **SmallTown Downtown** action plan is based upon a partnership of the City, the Chamber of Commerce, business owners, residents and developers. The focus of the plan is to retain the City's safe and secure "Main Street" feeling, while encouraging people to stroll in an attractive downtown environment with a wider variety of stores and restaurants.

The plan calls for median island improvements, increased parking, installation of a new traffic signal, decorative crosswalks, a well-lit pathway from Mt. Diablo Blvd. to the BART station, restoration of Happy Valley Creek,

development of a newsrack ordinance, installation of street number signs, a community events sign, and decorative "Lafayette" signs at the City's main entryways.

The City is looking to long range planning as well, with proposals for a 10-year, comprehensive enhancement of the downtown area through revision of the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, development of underutilized parcels, provision for a new or refurbished library, implementation of the

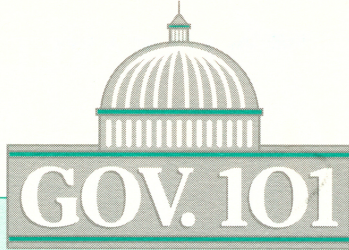
Master Landscape Plan, installation of "Battery Street" street lights and the completion of the undergrounding of utilities.

Don't miss out on being part of refining our exciting downtown action plan. To become involved in **SmallTown Downtown**, please direct comments to Council members, City staff, and the Chamber.



Architectural rendering of the La Fiesta Square redesign.





Third in an occasional series of articles introducing the history and basic principles of municipal government.

SALES TAX REVENUES

Since Proposition 13, sales tax revenues have been the single largest source of general purpose revenue for most California cities. Regardless of size or location, cities throughout California are critically dependent on sales tax revenues for funding key services including police, fire, streets, parks and recreation.

Lafayette's proposed 1997-98 budget projects general fund revenues of \$5.37 million, which includes sales tax revenues of \$1.775 million, (33% of general fund revenues).

Transactions Subject to Sales Tax

Sales tax is levied on the sale of personal property. It excludes taxes on real property, food for home consumption, prescription medicine, utilities and most services.

Collecting the Sales Tax

California first enacted a statewide sales tax in 1933 in response to a dramatic decline in property values and related revenues that resulted from the Great Depression. The initial rate was set at 2.5%, and revenues were used solely to fund state operations. By 1946, a number of cities had enacted their own local sales tax, and it became apparent that administering and collecting this tax on a city-by-city basis was a very complex undertaking. This led to the passage of the Bradley Burns Uniform Sales and Use Tax Law in 1955, which established a state-wide system for administering and collecting local sales taxes by the State Board of Equalization.

Sales Tax Rate

Today, the statewide sales tax rate is 7.25%, of which 6% is for the State general fund, 0.97% is for Lafayette, and 0.28% is for the County. In Contra Costa County, another 1.0% is added to the statewide sales tax rate for an allocation for local transportation improvements (0.5%) and for the BART Authority (0.5%).

The bottom line is that for every \$100 of sales in Lafayette, \$0.97 is returned to the City by the State Board of Equalization. The City has been aggressively pursuing ways to increase taxable sales in Lafayette.

Revenue by Economic Segment

Sales tax revenues generated in Lafayette by economic segment:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| ■ 17% restaurants | ■ 5% apparel stores |
| ■ 10% service stations | ■ 5% light industry |
| ■ 10% misc. retail | ■ 5% auto sales – new |
| ■ 8% food markets | ■ 4% auto parts/repair |
| ■ 8% business services | ■ 4% drug stores |
| ■ 5% florist/nursery | ■ 19% other |

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CITY BUDGET & WORKPLAN

On June 9th the City Council approved the 1997-98 proposed Municipal Budget and Workplan. The anticipated major sources of general fund revenue for the City include sales taxes (\$1,775,000), property taxes (\$1,500,000), other government revenues, including state motor vehicle tax and other state allocations (\$909,000), and franchise fees, transient occupancy taxes, and other revenues (\$1,191,000).

Highlights of expenditures include funding for:

- "Cop-on-a Bike" program (\$39,000 City share)
- 12 sworn Police Officers (\$1.8 million)
- 31 capital improvement projects – including 10 Road and Drain funded projects (\$6 million)
- Teen Development Intern (\$6,000)
- Signs for the Core Business Area (\$1,000)
- Library support (\$25,000 dollar-for-dollar match)
- 1998 Sesquicentennial Celebration (\$2,000)

TIDBITS....

EL NINO ON THE WAY...WINTERIZE YOUR CREEK

The City crew is preparing for winter storms by cleaning public drains and ditches. You can help by clearing obstructions from and around creek beds and private drainage ditches in your neighborhood. Some residents have even planned neighborhood creek cleanup parties! Key items to watch for are fallen leaves and vegetation in or near streams or drains, unstable dirt banks, and tree limbs or other materials that might obstruct water flow. Remember: streams running by and on private property are the responsibility of individual property owners, and that it will take all of us working together to eliminate potential flooding hazards. If you have had flooding and needed to sandbag in past storms, you may want to procure sandbags early while supplies are ample. Call Rick Grimes, City Engineering Technician at 284-1951 with any questions.

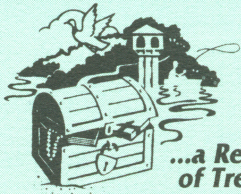
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Excitement and momentum is growing for the Sesquicentennial Celebration of Lafayette's 150th Anniversary. The logo for the year-long celebration was designed by Carsten Bekker and was selected from among 20 logo entries by a 5-member panel of judges. Don't miss out – get involved! Call the special V-mail box for info – or leave a message at 284-1968 ext. 150.

TENNIS COURT RESURFACING AT ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

A group of parents and tennis court users are seeking ideas about upgrading and resurfacing the tennis courts at Acalanes High School. Please call Gene Leong at 284-5349 to share suggestions and support.

SHOP LAFAYETTE



...a Reservoir
of Treasures!

The Merchants Committee of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has launched a Shop Lafayette campaign promoting the wide variety of products, services, dining, and entertainment venues the City has to offer. The campaign tagline...

"a Reservoir of Treasures!" plays off Lafayette's most recognizable and widely-known landmark.

The merchants' efforts will increase awareness of shopping, dining, and entertainment opportunities for local residents, as well as attract people from outside the Lamorinda area. Shopping Lafayette will improve the City's economy and generate sales tax revenues, part of which is returned to the City to provide infrastructure for community, streets, drains, parks, library, and services.

LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY CENTER

A Center for Learning...A Center for the Arts...A Center for Laughter and Fun

Back in 1949, residents conceived of a special facility to nurture, encourage and facilitate the social, educational and recreational interests of the community. Finding a suitable location and the funds to construct an appropriate facility put the dream way out of reach.

Thankfully, the concept of a Community Center refused to die. In January, 1983, Lafayette's City Council purchased the former Burton School facility and hard work began to transform the 30-year-old grammar school facility into a functional, aesthetically pleasing Community Center.

The task of renovating the old Burton School was shared by service clubs, local businesses and residents, recreation teachers, City representatives and individual volunteers.

A lot of progress has been made during the last 13 years. A Master Plan was adopted, a Community Center Foundation was formed, the initial capital improvements to make the facility habitable were completed and interior spaces were renovated to make room for our community's diverse recreational interests.

There are still areas that need to be completed and equipment that needs to be purchased. These include completion of the Manzanita building, the outdoor classroom/amphitheater and the bridge that connects the Community Center to the Community Park. Drinking fountains, gymnastics mats, lighting fixtures and air-conditioning units are still needed.

Please consider making a *tax deductible donation* to your Community Center. An envelope is enclosed! Thank you!



GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CITY!

City Council Meetings: 2nd & 4th Monday at 7pm
Manzanita Room, Laf. Comm. Ctr.

Planning Commission: 1st & 3rd Thursday, 7:30pm
Manzanita Room, Laf. Comm. Ctr.

Council Agenda: Free, pick-up at City offices on Fri. before Council meeting, examine at Library, or read from the Internet at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us. Subscription to mailed agenda service \$35.00 per year.

AROUND TOWN

Community Events

Now

LAMORINDA SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM – Accepting applications for the '97-98 school year on space available basis. Call 284-1968 for info.

Oct 23-31

RED RIBBON WEEK – The Nat'l Federation of Parents encourages you to wear a red ribbon this week as a symbol to eliminate illegal drug usage & availability. Contact your school for info.

Oct 24-26

PERFORMING ARTS GALA CELEBRATION – Showcasing local professional and pre-professional performing artists, including Center Repertory Theatre, Ca. Shakespeare Festival, Diablo Ballet and Lafayette's own Esprit de Corps Ballet Co. For info call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Oct. 26

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR RUN – Join 1,500 runners and walkers on one of No. California's most beautiful courses. For registration information, call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Nov. 21

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST – Join friends and neighbors for an interfaith breakfast celebrating our good fortunes. 7:30 am. For info call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Dec. 5

HOSPICE TREE LIGHTING – Join your fellow citizens at the big oak tree on Lafayette Circle for a dazzling display of lights, songs, good wishes as well as to honor those who are no longer with us. Call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Dec. 6

TEDDY BEAR BRUNCH – The 2nd annual tribute to tea time, children, party fashion for little ones, and fun for grown-ups. Come to the Lafayette Park Hotel with your little ones and share a magical moment. Call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Dec. 6, 7

LAFAYETTE WINTER FESTIVAL & BOUQUETTE – Great food, hot mulled cider, arts & crafts, choral groups and a visit from Santa. FREE. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Lafayette Community Center.

City Parks & Recreation Programs – 284-2232

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT – Let us babysit your kids! 1st Sat. of each month, 6:30-10:30pm, Laf. Comm. Ctr.

ACE OF CLUBS – Music & dance club for High School students. 10/24, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12.

HALLOWEEN FUN SHOW – Oct 31, Noon, Kindergarten & under. Laf. Comm. Ctr.

HOLIDAY BAKING CLASSES – Nov. 13: Desserts; Dec. 2: Appetizers. Laf. Comm. Ctr.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

The deadline for candidates to file for three City Council seats has passed. Since only one candidate filed for each seat, there will be no election in November. The council members who will assume the seats beginning November 24, 1997, will be: Jay Strauss (2-year seat), Don Tatzin (4-year seat), and Ivor Samson (4-year seat).



Over the years, individual residents have provided many hours of volunteer time to improve the quality of life in our City. This is the second in an occasional series of articles in which VISTAS gratefully acknowledges their generosity. If you know of a volunteer you think other residents should be aware of, please call the VISTAS editor at (510) 284-1968.

Lafayette's Garden Club launched a community effort to spruce up the Lafayette Library grounds during Spring, 1996. Project chairman Maureen Owens worked with the Contra Costa County Grounds Division to plant drought tolerant native plants in areas without sprinklers, and also flowering azalea, rhododendron and camellias. Climbing roses grace a long barren arbor in the library patio area. Plants and supplies were donated by Harry's Nursery, Lafayette Tree and Landscape, and Diamond K Supply. Shell Oil and the National Council of State Garden Clubs provided a \$250 grant. Members of the Friends of the Lafayette Library and the Lafayette Rotary assisted Garden Club members during a number of work and planting sessions. Lafayette School students and members of Girl Scout Troop 632 contributed hand crafted stepping stones to the effort. We applaud these efforts made by individuals and organizations to enhance our community.

LAFAYETTE LIBRARY UPDATE

Last year, a task force studying Civic Center Development found that the City's current library building was outdated, poorly located, and insufficient for the community's needs. The City Council directed City staff to identify options for the library facility – the first step in the process of providing a library that will serve the community well into the 21st century.

Lafayette has a strong library tradition – beginning with a subscription library organized in 1860. The Lafayette branch of the County library started with 60 books in a corner of the town post office in 1915. In 1927, the Lafayette Improvement Club bought the old Lafayette School building, moved it from Moraga Rd. to Mt. Diablo Blvd., and set up a combination post office, library and telephone company office. The library later moved to Town Hall on Moraga Rd. Finally, the library found a home in the current building on Moraga Rd. on March 25, 1962.

At 6,720 square feet, the 35-year-old building falls significantly below the minimum recommended floor space for Lafayette's population; the County recommends at least 14,000 square feet. Despite being the smallest library space in the Lamorinda area, circulation is the highest; 216,000 books a year with 1,000 more users each week than Moraga's library and 600 more than Orinda's.

To best serve the community, Lafayette's librarians focus special efforts on a modern and up-to-date children's book section. In the rest of the library they cull outdated and worn books from the stacks, an effort that was intensified after the roof leaked during last winter's storms. Six computers augment the resources available to the public with two providing Internet access.

The nonprofit group known as the Friends of the Lafayette Library run the Book Room at the Lafayette Community Center. There you can browse and buy used hard cover and paperback books on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am to noon. Last year the Friends' efforts and donations of \$25,000 were matched by a City grant. These funds were sufficient to increase the length of time the Library is open each week from 29 to 39 hours.

Contact Alice Barham at 284-5795 for information about the Friends, donating or purchasing Book Room books, or contributing to the Open Hours Fund.

CITY DIRECTORY

Leave your Council Members a message on the City's voice mail system! Call 284-1968

Officers		EXT.
Donald L. Tatzin	Mayor	274
Anne Grodin	Vice Mayor	273
Judy Garvens	Council Member	272
Erling Horn	Council Member	271
Jay Strauss	Council Member	270

For messages to all Council Members: 907

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Mike Henn	Planning Serv. Mgr.
Jennifer Russell	Parks and Rec. Director
John McDonald	Public Works Serv. Mgr.
Sue Jusaitis	City Clerk
Mike Ilg	Police Services Mgr.
Juliet Shanks	School Bus Analyst

City Offices and Police

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Homepage URL: www.ci.lafayette.ca.us

City Telephone Numbers

Administration:	284-1968
Engineering:	284-1951
Planning:	284-1976
Parks and Rec:	284-2232
Public Works:	284-1968
Senior Services:	284-5050
Police Business:	284-5010
Police Emergency:	911
Voice Mail System:	284-1968

LAFAYETTE VISTAS

is published for the residents of Lafayette and reports on issues, people and events that affect our city. As a member of this community, you are encouraged to contact us with your questions and comments. We request all correspondence be sent to:

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